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Egypt

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American Research Center in Egypt

FOUNDED AT BOSTON
MAY 14, 1948

Incorporated under the laws
of the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, March 1950



History of the Center

THE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER opened in Cairo in February, 1951, with Dr. William Stevenson Smith of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts as its Director for the first year of operations in Egypt. The CENTER admits qualified students of all nationalities whose interest lies in Egypt's past or present; and since the founders believe that the present cannot be understood without the past, nor the past without direct knowledge of the present, the CENTER embraces as its concern the Prehistoric, Pharaonic, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Coptic and Islamic fields.

The CENTER hopes to cooperate in this work with other institutions, both with those located in the U.S.A. and with the Schools founded by the Archæological Institute of America in Athens, Rome, Jerusalem and Baghdad, and the American School of Prehistoric Research at present operating in North Africa.

The CENTER has met with the friendliest reception everywhere, from the Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte, from the Cairo Museum, from the Universities in Cairo and Alexandria, from the Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale, from the Swiss Institute for the History of Egyptian Architecture, from the Arabic Museum and the Coptic Museum, whose facilities offer a wide range of material to scholars. The Director of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago and its Field Director in Egypt have offered the co-operation of the Oriental Institute Epigraphic Expedition, whose magnificent library at Chicago House in Luxor is the finest Egyptological library in Egypt outside Cairo. By the adherence of the Egyptian Government the application of the Fulbright Act has been extended to Egypt; and the CENTER has been recognized as an organization to which Fulbright grantees may be affiliated.

The CENTER was formally established on May 14, 1948, at a meeting presided over by Edward W. Forbes, Chairman of the Committee to Visit the Department of Egyptian and Semitic Studies at Harvard University; then by Professor Sterling Dow, at that time President of the Archæological Institute of America. Speakers included Mr. William Phillips, former Ambassador, Mr. Mortimer Graves of the American Council of Learned Societies and the late Abd'ès Salam Hussein, the distinguished Egyptian archæ-

ologist; an account of the founding, indicating the wide objectives of the founders, was published in *Archæology* I, 1948, pp. 136-145. The first Director was John Wilson, former Director of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago; the late Joseph Lindon Smith, first Life Member of the CENTER, succeeded him.

The CENTER was incorporated under the laws of Massachusetts in March, 1950. The following served as Trustees at the time of legal organization: Edward W. Forbes (President), Sterling Dow, Carl T. Keller (Treasurer), Dows Dunham, Frederick Foster, Richard A. Parker, William Stevenson Smith. The U. S. Treasury Department has ruled that the CENTER be tax-exempt, and that contributions are deductible for Income-Tax purposes.

AIMS OF THE CENTER

The main purpose of the CENTER is to create means by which young Americans interested in the civilization of Egypt may be encouraged and assisted to go to that country, and to provide a practical organization in Egypt to facilitate their studies. Inseparable from this must be the furtherance of friendly contacts between Americans and Egyptians. The founders of the CENTER believe that such study and contact resulting in a knowledge of the civilization of Egypt would bring a better understanding of the Moslem World by Americans.

Facilities of the CENTER are available to all scholars and students who request assistance in the following fields:

Prehistoric	Early Christian
Dynastic Pharaonic	Byzantine
Greco-Roman	Islamic Art and Civilization
	Architecture
History of Fine Arts	Languages:
Archæology	Egyptian Coptic
Egyptology	Arabic Semitic

APPOINTMENT OF DR. ARTHUR JEFFERY

Dr. Arthur Jeffery, Professor of Semitic Languages, at Columbia University, has been appointed as the next Director of the CENTER to succeed Mr. John D. Cooney. He will be in Cairo from June 1953 to September 1954. His address will be 113 Sharia Kasr al-Aini, and the telephone number Cairo 23022.

Professor Jeffery is a much travelled and widely known scholar: his Koranic studies have perhaps made him as well-known in Cairo as in this country. In the first World War he was in Indonesia and British India; from 1922 to 1938 he was in Cairo at the School of Oriental Studies, and made extensive trips through the Near East. In 1946 and 1947 he was Annual Professor at the American School of Oriental Research, Jerusalem, and acted as Director for the latter part of the year.

ARRANGEMENTS IN CAIRO UNDER DR. AND MRS. JEFFERY

Assistance will be given visiting scholars and students in finding accommodations at reasonable rates (upon request). Appointments and contacts with Egyptians and other scholars can be arranged in the specialized fields. Informal gatherings will be held in the Cairo flat for the purpose of allowing Egyptians and foreigners to meet with one another.

Procedures established by William Stevenson Smith, Arthur E. Boak and John D. Cooney as Directors will be continued. The Director will keep in touch with scholars and students in Cairo on Fulbright Grants, working in cooperation with the U. S. Educational Foundation for Egypt, the American University, and Public Relations and Cultural Attaches of the American Embassy in Cairo. He will assist in obtaining photographs, collated texts, information on objects in Cairo collections, and will deal with inquiries on recent publications, manuscripts, etc. He will give lectures on invitation, furnish information or data requested by scholars and students. The Director will also make contacts with Egyptian students who have studied in American universities. He will enlist the services of some of them in showing visiting scholars about and helping in other contacts.

THE CENTER AS CLEARING HOUSE FOR AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP

(1) Library Services:

- microfilming
- book inquiries
- search for special items
- bibliographical inquiries

(2) Creswell's Bibliography of Islamic Architecture

(3) Information on Research Programs.

Communications from Museums, colleges and universities requesting data for their departments covered in the field of the CENTER'S activities should be sent directly to Dr. Jeffery at his Cairo address. All other inquiries about membership and organization of the CENTER in the United States should be sent to the Executive Secretary.

PROJECT FOR EXCAVATION

It is hoped and anticipated that, like the American Schools at Athens, Rome, and Jerusalem, the CENTER may be able in the not-too-remote future to sponsor and conduct excavations in Egypt. Such excavations would be purely scientific in purpose — intended chiefly to augment the world's knowledge of Egyptian antiquity and to provide a practical "laboratory" in which to train future generations of archæologists, architects, epigraphers, and copyists. Since excavation is meaningless without prompt and adequate publication of the results, each season's work should be published in full year by year: and it is regarded as essential that, before a program of excavation is entered upon, provisions shall be completed for the production of such annual publications. Field work, it is felt, has always been the life blood of any archæological organization. Other considerations aside, it is the activity which more than any other captures and holds the interests of scholars and public alike.

MEMBERSHIP

Members are voting participants in the CENTER'S affairs; they receive newsletters reporting all activities of the CENTER, special articles of interest to them and notices of Annual and Special Meetings which they may attend. The Annual Meeting is in November, and in accord with Massachusetts Corporation Law takes place in that State. Special Meetings may be held elsewhere.

Membership may be granted upon application to the Executive Secretary.

THE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT

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Edward W. Forbes — Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge 38, Mass.

TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT

Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

DEAR SIR:

Kindly enroll me as a

- ☐ Regular Member (\$5)
☐ Contributing Member (\$10)
☐ Sustaining Member (\$25)

- ☐ Associate of the Center (\$50)
☐ Fellow of the Center (\$100)
☐ Life Member (one payment, \$500)

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Chicago, Ill.

DIRECTOR IN EGYPT 1953-1954

Dr. Arthur Jeffery — 113 Sharia Kasr al-Aini, Cairo

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Eric Schroeder — Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge 38, Mass.
